



The Honorable Cyrus R. Vance

January 30, 1980

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applicants. However, the Consulate also reports that the Government of Argentina has denied U.S. officials permission to interview many of the other applicants. Furthermore, of the 235 applicants interviewed and accepted by the United States, only 39 have actually been granted the "Right of Option" to leave Argentina and travel to this country as of January 15, 1980.

We feel that this response by the Government of Argentina is unacceptably slow, especially in light of its expressed commitments to improve the status of human rights in that country. We ask that every means of influence be used to insure the earliest possible release of those detainees granted Certificates of Acceptability by the United States and by other nations. We ask that the "Right of Option" be granted to all of those individuals who have been accepted for admission to the United States.

Since 1976, over 200 refugees from Chile and other South American countries have resettled in the Northwest. Virtually all have become self-sufficient and productive members of their host communities, contributing to the growth and diversity of the area. Many churches and other organizations have already committed themselves to helping in the resettlement of these refugees and are anxiously awaiting the arrival of the Argentinians. We know that many of these Argentinian refugees will be welcomed to this new life in the Northwest.

Sincerely,



Thomas S. Foley, M.C.



Mike McCormack, M.C.



Joel Pritchard, M.C.



Don Bonker, M.C.



Norman D. Dicks



Mike Love, M.C.



Al Swift, M.C.